



The St James Village Orchard Project

HEALTH & SAFETY POLICY

POLICY STATEMENT

1 The St. James Village Orchard Project (“the project”) believes that no orchard volunteers, visitors, on-site suppliers or contractors should be exposed to avoidable incidents or avoidable health risks

SCOPE OF POLICY

2 All villagers, advisors, volunteers, suppliers and contractors

PURPOSE OF THIS POLICY

3 It is the aim of the project to establish and maintain an orchard that is safe and healthy for all who work and visit, recognising the natural and desirable characteristics of such a rural site and environment.

ELEMENTS OF THE POLICY

4 The policy aims will be achieved by:

4.1 the responsibility for the safety of volunteers, visitors and workers must be seen as one that is shared between the project and the individual given the nature of the site, its ancient ditch and hedge boundaries and uneven wild meadow surface, the trees planted and debris from them and the wild flora and fauna that will be encouraged as part of the project

4.2 the project will take reasonable measures to mitigate risks in ways that are compatible with the project and its conservation objectives and environmental policy but not necessarily to eliminate all risks

4.3 the project will provide evident but unobtrusive warning signs where appropriate and additional notices where work involving extra risk is in progress. This may include barring access temporarily. Volunteers, visitors and workers will be expected to observe such signs and notices and take instruction and advice given

4.4 Parents must ensure that children are supervised at all time

4.5 Volunteers, visitors and workers should take all appropriate care when entering and leaving the orchard site from or to the adjacent roads, and must ensure that all gates are left closed

4.6 As far as possible, the project will avoid the use of hazardous chemicals and other treatments. Volunteers, visitors and workers should be aware that such treatments may be present in adjoining areas outside the project's control

4.7 Tools and equipment used by volunteers and workers whether or not provided by the project must be used in accordance with manufacturer's instructions for use and health and safety. Contractors will be responsible for ensuring that they and their workers comply with their company health and safety policies

4.8 The project will ensure that mature trees will be inspected regularly for signs of diseased or unsafe branches

4.9 The project will ensure that all orchard produce and products are identified and labelled. Those taking delivery will accept responsibility for any allergy or other personal health risk.

4.10 Smoking while on the orchard site will be prohibited at all times

RESPONSIBILITIES

5 Responsibility for the implementation of this policy will lie with the project committee.

6 A periodic risk assessment will be carried out, noting the requirement to preserve the natural character and features of the site. This will include issues such as access, theft and vandalism, disease to trees and other items covered above.

7 The project committee will maintain in force a current Public Liability Insurance policy appropriate for the project

MONITORING

8 This policy will be reviewed annually, any general information gained relating to the content and operational effectiveness of the policy will be brought to this review.

Date of Policy:

Signed:

Date of next review